4. (AMENDED) Device according to claim 1, in which an electrode of a fuel cell is separated from an adjacent passage or space for the supply of a working medium by a perforated plate (9), in which the size and/or density of the holes increases from a midline (13) to the edge and the mid-line runs parallel to the flow direction (14) of the working medium.

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5. (AMENDED) Device according to claim 1, in which the size and/or density of the holes at the edge is at least about 5%, preferably about 20% greater than the size and/or density of the holes close to the midline.

6. (AMENDED) Method of operating a device with the features according to claim 1, in which the fuel cell stack is cooled externally by evaporation of a cooling medium in the adjacently-arranged cooling device, whereby the heat from the fuel cells is transferred to the cooling device mainly through thermal radiation.